



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-4410
Fax: (808) 586-4444

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**Hawaii State Department of Health
Hosts Pacific Region Laboratory Training**

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health State Laboratory Division (SLD) will host a training workshop conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in partnership with the National Laboratory Training Network (NLTN) and the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) from Sunday, March 5 through Thursday, March 9, 2006. The training is targeted to laboratory technicians responsible for the timely shipment of samples for chemical analysis and confirmatory testing in the event of an act of chemical or biological terrorism. The training will also provide required recertification for laboratory technicians in safe procedures for the packaging and shipping of samples.

“The Department of Health is glad to be a partner in this vital training in order to continue to build capacity for the public health laboratories of Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands,” said Laurence Lau, Deputy Director for the Environmental Health Division. “With the proper training and procedures in place the existing flow of samples to Hawaii and Mainland CDC laboratories will be more efficient, effective, and ultimately much safer.”

A team of public health specialists have developed this joint training program specifically for the Pacific Island Region. The training will incorporate International Air Transport Association (IATA)-approved, airline specific and regional procedures for shipping and packaging of biological and chemical substances, as well as general overviews of Center for Disease Control's chemical terrorism and bioterrorism programs.

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For information contact:
Janice Okubo
Communications Office
(808) 586-4442
janice.okubo@doh.hawaii.gov